

RANGE EXTENSIONS FOR TWO NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN OPISTHOBRANCHS

Robert Burn Hon. Associate, National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.

Family DORIDIDAE

Ceratosoma cornigerum Adams and Reeve (1850: 68). A single specimen, 40 mm long preserved, from 10 m on reef at Julian Rocks, Byron Bay, 28 March 1975, collected by N. Coleman (F 29706) is a new record for New South Wales. In life, its colouration was pale orange, with a strong purple line along notal edge as in Baba's coloured figure (1949: pl. 20, fig. 72) of a Japanese specimen. Several southern Queensland localities for this species have been listed by Kenny (1960: 225). Coleman (1975: 131) gives a coloured figure of two reddish-orange specimens from northern Australian waters, but these are very much darker than the present specimen.

Family PLEUROLIDIIDAE

Pleurolidia juliae Burn (1966: 22). This peculiar eolid species, known at the time of description from only two preserved specimens from Lord Howe and Heron Islands, has since been found at widely separated localities across northern Australia. It is probably quite common wherever its food host, the black hydroid *Solanderia* sp., occurs (Coleman, 1975: 90 and col. fig). The following material is in the collections of the National Museum of Victoria.

Julian Rocks, Byron Bay, New South Wales, 30 March 1975; 2 specimens from 8 m on black hydroid, collected by N. Coleman (F 29707). New record for N.S.W.

Keppell Bay, Queensland, 31 January 1972; 1 specimen from 7 m on hydroids, collected by J. E. Watson (F 29708).

Kendrew Island, Dampier, Western Australia, 14 October 1972; 1 specimen from 4.5 m on hydroids, egg ribbons present, collected by N. Coleman (F 29709). New record for W.A.

The Western Australian specimen had a pinkish-brown body with superficial black pigment, and white-tipped black cerata and rhinophores. The N.S.W. specimens were intensely black all over, with minute white speckling on the body, a white stripe along the centre of the back, a white upper half to each of the cerata, and white-stippled black rhinophores. The Queensland specimen had very dark body, white stripe along centre of back, but no speckling or stippling.

The egg ribbon is laid as a spiral of 10 or more turns around the stem or larger branches of the hydroid; it is 0.4 mm in width, the eggs are excessively numerous, 0.06 mm in diameter and pink in color. The animal is very long and slender in life and well camouflaged (Coleman, 1975: 90) as it twists among the branches of its food host. Autotomy occurs in some specimens when placed in preservative, the body breaking at mid-length.

REFERENCES

- ADAMS, A., & L. REEVE, 1850. Mollusca. *Zoology of the voyage of H.M.S. Samarang, 1843-46*, pt. 3: 44-88, pl. 1-24 London: British Museum.
- BABA, K., 1949. *Opisthobranchia of Sagami Bay*. 194 pp., 50 pls. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.
- BURN, R., 1966. Descriptions of Australian Eolidacea. 4. The genera *Pleurolidia*, *Fiona*, *Learchis* and *Cerberilla* from Lord Howe Island. *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.*, 1(10): 21-34.
- COLEMAN, N., 1975. *What shell is that?* 308 pp., 811 col. figs. Sydney: Paul Hamlyn.
- KENNY, R., 1960. Some opisthobranch molluscs from Queensland. *Pap. Dep. Zool. Qd.*, 1(8): 223-228.